

After page ~~10~~, add a new page ~~11~~ with the following text:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A5
A WDM ring network and method for distributing within such ring network for feeding in data and for distributing both working signals and protection signals on different transmission paths and in oppositely directed transmission directions, and for forwarding data from subscribers and for distributing the working signals to the subscribers.--

In the Claims:

On page ~~8~~, cancel line ~~1~~, and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

--I Claim As Our Invention:--

Please cancel claims ~~1-6~~, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

7. A ring network, comprising:

15 a central network element for feeding in data and for distributing both working signals and protection signals on different transmission paths and in oppositely directed transmission directions, and wherein, proceeding from the central network element, the ring network is subdivided into a first part and a second part;

20 a plurality of further network elements connected to subscribers for forwarding upstream data from the subscribers and for distributing the working signals to the subscribers;

wherein the central network element feeds the working signals into the first and second parts of the ring network;

25 wherein the central network element, in accordance with portions of the working signals fed into the first and second parts of the ring network, feeds the working signals as protection signals into the respective other part of the ring network; and

wherein the further network elements forward the protection signals as far as the respective network element terminating the first and left-hand parts of the ring